

**August 1, 2013
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***AMERICAN BOARD OF PATHOLOGY ANNOUNCES MAINTENANCE OF
CERTIFICATION: PHYSICIAN QUALITY REPORTING SYSTEM (MOC:PQRS)***

The American Board of Pathology has been approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to participate in the MOC:PQRS Additional Incentive Program. This approval allows ABP diplomates that are successfully participating in the PQRS incentive program to earn an additional 0.5% incentive payment on the total Medicare Part B allowed charges for participation in MOC:PQRS in 2013.

PHYSICIAN QUALITY REPORTING SYSTEM (PQRS)

PQRS, formerly known as PQRI, is a federal voluntary quality reporting program that provides an incentive payment to eligible physicians who satisfactorily report data on specified quality measures. Pathology currently has five quality measures. They are:

Breast Cancer Resection Pathology Reporting (PQRS Measure #99): Breast cancer resection pathology reports include pT, pN, and histologic grade

Colorectal Cancer Resection Pathology Reporting (PQRS Measure #100): Colon and rectal cancer resection pathology reports include pT, pN, and histologic grade

Barrett Esophagus (PQRS Measure # 249): Esophageal biopsy reports that document Barrett mucosa include a statement about dysplasia

Radical Prostatectomy Pathology Reporting (PQRS Measure #250): Radical prostatectomy pathology reports include pT, pN, Gleason score and margin status

IHC Evaluation of HER2 for Breast Cancer Patients (PQRS Measure #251): Quantitative evaluation of HER2 by IHC uses the ASCO/CAP Guidelines for HER2 testing in breast cancer

Physicians can choose to fulfill the PQRS reporting requirement through Medicare Part B claims (most commonly used by pathologists), a qualified electronic health record, or a qualified registry, such as that used by MOCMatters described below. For 2013 and 2014, the PQRS incentive payment is 0.5% of a physician's total Medicare Part B allowed charges. Physicians who do not participate in PQRS in 2013 will incur a 1.5% penalty in 2015. In 2013, if two members of a group (physicians with the same tax identification number) are reporting quality measures using a registry, the entire group can receive the incentive payment based on their total Medicare Part B allowed charges. See www.cms.gov or the College of American Pathologists' PQRS Resource Center at www.cap.org for more information.

MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION: PHYSICIAN QUALITY REPORTING

MOC:PQRS offers eligible physicians who have satisfactorily submitted data under PQRS the opportunity to earn an **additional incentive payment of 0.5%** for participating in the CMS qualified American Board of Pathology MOC program "more frequently" than is required to maintain board certification. For diplomates with time limited certificates, "more frequently" has been defined as any **one** of the following:

MOC PART II: Complete more than 25 CME credits per year, OR
Complete more than 10 SAMs credits per year, OR

MOC PART III: Take the secure examination in years 7, 8, or 9 of the MOC cycle, OR

MOC Part IV: Complete more than one performance improvement/quality assurance (PI/QA) per year, OR

Patient Safety Course: Complete an ABMS approved patient safety course during the first MOC reporting period.

MOC:PQRS participants must satisfactorily submit data on PQRS quality measures (listed above) per CMS requirements for a 12 month period, either as an individual physician (i.e. claims-based, registry, or qualified EHR) or as part of a group practice under one of the PQRS Group Practice Reporting Options. Physicians must continue to report to CMS as usual in order to receive the baseline 0.5% incentive payment and to qualify for the additional 0.5% MOC;PQRS incentive payment.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN MOC:PQRS

Diplomates must use the MOC:PQRS Attestation Module available at www.mocmatters.abms.org. This module provides step-by-step instructions and an excellent explanation of the MOC:PQRS program. The discounted cost for the Attestation Module is \$30. There is also an option to purchase the MOC:PQRS Bundle which includes the Attestation Module and the PQRS Reporting via a Registry module. The PQRS Reporting via Registry qualifies for the PQRS group reporting option described above in the PQRS section. The discounted cost of the Bundle is \$100. Note that ABP diplomates are exempt from the CMS requirement to participate in a Patient Experience of Care Survey.

All participants in MOC:PQRS are required to complete at least one MOC Part IV Practice Assessment (Performance Improvement/Quality Assessment) activity during 2013.

DIPLOMATES WITH NON-TIME LIMITED (LIFETIME) CERTIFICATES

For diplomates with lifetime certificates, voluntary enrollment in the ABP's MOC program will meet the "more frequent" CMS requirement to qualify for the additional MOC:PQRS incentive payment.

Lifetime diplomates should send an email request to ABP-MOC@abpath.org in order to enroll in the ABP's MOC program. The MOC Booklet of Information is available at the ABP website www.abpath.org. The cost of MOC enrollment is \$100. The first report of MOC activities is not due to the ABP until January 31, 2015. There is no jeopardy to the lifetime certificate if a diplomate chooses not to report or continue participation in MOC. Lifetime diplomates must also use the MOC:PQRS Attestation Module at www.mocmatters.abms.org and attest that they have completed at least one MOC Part IV Practice Assessment (Performance Improvement/Quality Assessment) activity during 2013.

The attestation module must be completed by December 31, 2013 to qualify for the incentive payment.

For questions or more information, you may contact the ABP at ABP-MOC@abpath.org or call Jill Gordon, MOC Coordinator at 813-286-2444 x222